



Soil and Water Resources

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Don't Miss the 2006 Area Meetings May 8 - 18!

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Area Meetings are coming early this year.

Join the Soil and Water Conservation Program and the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the 2006 area meetings. Meeting times vary by area.

A member of the Soil and Water Districts Commission will speak, and MASWCD will present information on the parks-and-soils sales tax.

In addition there will be an update from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and a presentation on communication skills.

Area meetings are a great opportunity to meet people and learn about happenings in your area.

Inside this Issue:

Earth Day	2
Alternative Funding Cont.	
FFA Soil Judging	3
Environmental Science and Natural Resources Award	
Eligible Land Survey	4
Public Service Announcement	
Memos at a Glance	5

Alternative Funding

by Chris Wieberg



Money doesn't grow on trees, but there are ways you can magnify your district's funding.

Currently soil and water conservation districts receive a large portion of their annual operating budget from the one-tenth-of-one-percent parks-and-soils sales tax, which is administered by the Soil and Water Districts Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

However, many districts have an annual operating budget that exceeds their allocation from the sales tax. In this case, districts find it necessary to pursue **alternative funding sources or generate local funds to offset rising expenses**. Alternative funding sources can come from many difference places.

One way districts can secure funding is by writing a **grant**. Two grants available through the department's Soil and Water Conservation Program are **information and education grant** and the **Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment** grant (AgNPS SALT).

Information and education grants are available to fund new and innovative information and education projects. Proposals, along with a budget, are submitted to the program office in the spring.

AgNPS SALT grants focus on improving water quality. Funding can be used for personnel, administrative costs, cost-share, and information and education. The

Grants
County Commission
Donations
Sales
Rental Equipment

department's Soil and Water Conservation Program will begin requesting proposals in **July**.

Another grant available through the department is a nonpoint source implementation grant, better known as a **319 grant**.

A large 319 project would possibly include funding for personnel, administrative costs, cost-share, and information and education. Districts must keep in mind that a 319 project will substantially increase the workload of the district.

There are also 319 mini-grants. These projects are smaller than a regular 319 project in terms of funding and workload.

Applications for 319 grants for fiscal year 2006 are due **June 19**. For more information, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/nps/index.html.

To find more information grants, type the word "grants" into an internet search engine.

Continued on Page 2

How Did You Spend Earth Day?

More than 900 students, teachers and members of the public showed up in Jefferson City April 21 to help the Missouri Department of Natural Resources celebrate Earth Day.

Staff from the Soil and Water Conservation Program volunteered at the event, teaching students about our natural resources.

"Earth Day is a great opportunity to teach students about the importance of conserving our soil and water resources," says AgNPS SALT coordinator Colleen Meredith.

The slogan for this year's event, "You are the Solution to Pollution," was selected from hundreds of entries received by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in the 2006 Earth Day slogan contest. Dalton Stafford, son of Todd and Barb Stafford of Carthage, submitted the winning words. Dalton is a fifth-grader at Fairview Elementary School in Carthage.



Colleen Meredith, right, explains the importance of keeping cattle out of streams in order to prevent erosion to fifth-grade students at Earth Day. Meredith says the stream table is a great way to demonstrate how different land uses can effect stream bank erosion and water flow.

Alternative Funding Cont.

Another source of funding is local **county commissions**. In most cases county commission funding is used for general district operating expenses. These funds are usually referred to as local funds and are public funds.

In some instances the county commission indicates what the funding can be used for. It is important that districts comply with these funding restrictions in order to continue to receive county commission funding.

If your district does not currently receive funding from your county commission, it may be helpful to **meet with the county commissioners**, before they write their budget, in order to request funding. It is important to portray to the county commission that by funding district programs the county commission may be able to achieve some of their goals for the upcoming year. **Remember to use specific examples as to how the county commission can benefit from funding district programs.**

Donations are also a good source of funding. Districts can request donations for meetings, workshops, or for district operating costs. Some districts have also solicited donations through mailings or at their annual meeting.

Districts can also generate funding through **sales**. Items that districts have sold include tile pipe, survey flags, ae-

rial photos, stakes, seed, newsletter advertisements, and plat books. The district operations manual states that, "districts under no circumstances get into a business venture that competes with private industry."

Missouri statute (Chapter 278 Section 130) states that, "the soil and water supervisors of any district shall not engage in the marketing of farm products or in the buying and selling of farm supplies other than those products or supplies used or needed directly or indirectly in soil and water conservation work..."

Also, it is the Soil and Water Districts Commission's policy that items intended for resale are not to be purchased with state funds. Instead districts should use local funds.

Another alternative source for districts is to rent out agricultural equipment that benefits soil conservation. Examples of **rental equipment** include no-till drills, straw bale mulchers, lagoon pumping equipment, herbicide sprayers, tractors and cultivators. Many districts have found that rental equipment can be a good source of income.

Take the time to explore alternative funding sources for your district. They can help your district meet its goals of conserving our soil and water resources for future generations.

FFA Students Compete in State Soil Judging Contest



One of five soil pits students examined during testing.

Students put their soil identification skills to the test during the 2006 FFA Soil Judging Contest on April 20.

“Students learn that soil is much more than just what you see on the surface,” says Wyn Kelley, Missouri Department of Natural Resources soil scientist. “The soil tells a story, and students can directly see the influence of different soil forming factors while preparing for and competing in these soil judging competitions.”

Forty-seven teams competed in the Soil Judging Contest. The first-place team was Clopton High School in Clarksville. Linn High School placed second and Marshfield High School placed third.

Austin Magruder of Clopton High School had the best individual results, followed by Tony Ryan of Troy High School and Katie Morfeld of Linn High School.

“Some of the best high school students are involved in FFA career development education competitions,” says Bill Pauls, U.S. Department of Agriculture soil scientist and lead coordinator of the soil judging contest. Students also competed in a variety of other career development event areas, such as farm management, livestock and floriculture. For other event results, visit www.aged.missouri.edu/AgEd/agteacher/cde.htm.



Environmental Science and Natural Resources Award

Jenny Sare, of the Pleasant Hope FFA Chapter was awarded with the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award at the 78th Missouri FFA Convention on April 20. Department of Natural Resources Director Doyle Childers presented the award.

The Pleasant Hope High School sophomore is the daughter of Duane Sherman and Gail Sare Sherman. Her advisors are Jeff Voris and Mary Anne Keck.

Sare’s Supervised Agricultural Experience Project (SAE) consists of the STREAM Environmental Research Honors Class. During the class, Sare conducted college level research on water purity, comparing well water near the Springfield Sanitary Landfill with well water farther from the landfill.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management is one of 51 proficiency awards presented at the state level and is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. For a listing of all proficiency award winners visit agebb.missouri.edu/news/moffaconv/.



Doyle Childers, left, and Jenny Sare, right
Missouri FFA Association Photo

Attention: *Soil and Water Resources* is now online.

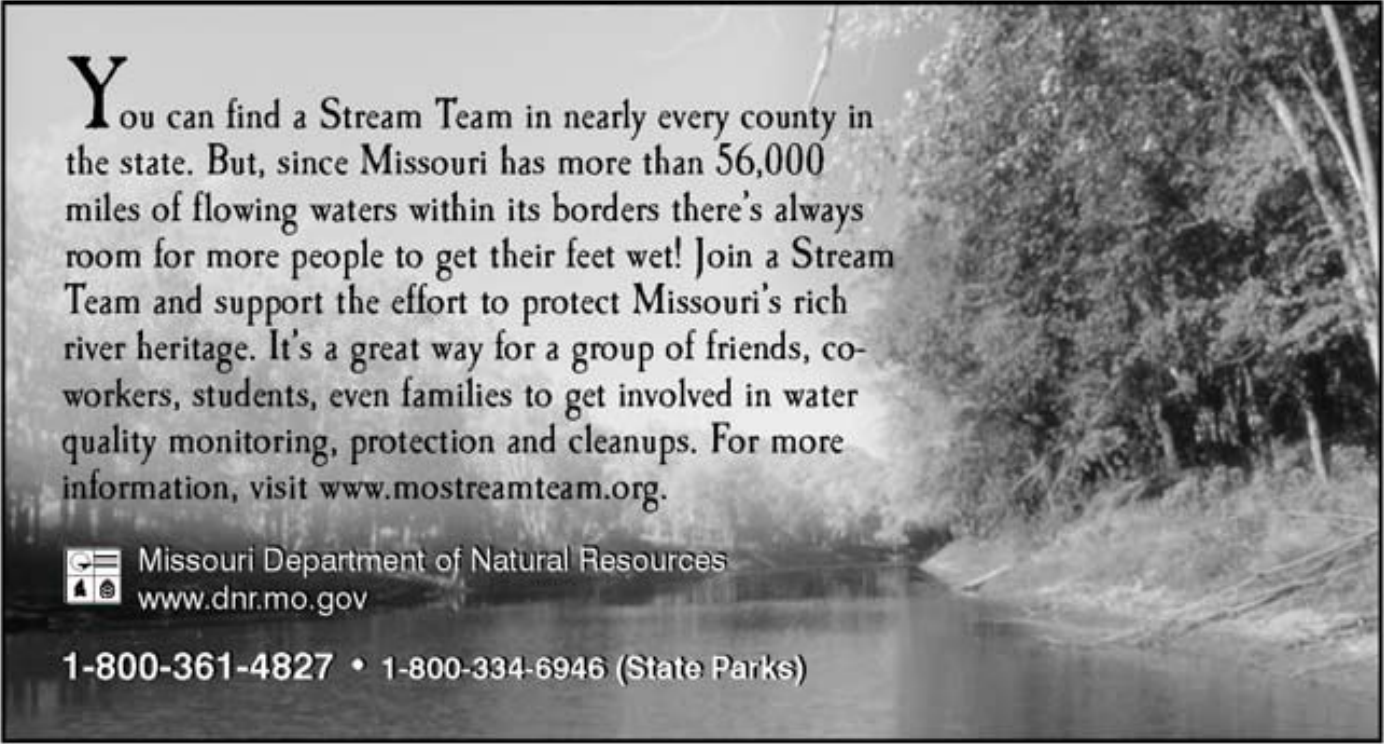
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/publicat.htm>

To receive an electronic version, please send your name and e-mail address to Lindsay.Tempinson@dnr.mo.gov.

Don't Forget to Fill Out the Eligible Land Survey

The Soil and Water Districts Commission would like to get your opinion regarding their policy on eligible land for cost-share.

The survey was provided with Memorandum 2006-035 sent to districts on April 4. Please fill out the survey and return it to the program office by June 1.



You can find a Stream Team in nearly every county in the state. But, since Missouri has more than 56,000 miles of flowing waters within its borders there's always room for more people to get their feet wet! Join a Stream Team and support the effort to protect Missouri's rich river heritage. It's a great way for a group of friends, co-workers, students, even families to get involved in water quality monitoring, protection and cleanups. For more information, visit www.mostreamteam.org.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.mo.gov

1-800-361-4827 • 1-800-334-6946 (State Parks)

Interested in using a public service announcement for your newsletter?

Announcements are available on the Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov/psa/index.html.

Memos at a Glance

2006-025 - Fiscal Year 2006 Matching Grant Program

- Discusses the release of additional matching grant funds by the Soil and Water Districts Commission.

2006-026 - AgNPS SALT Survey

- Contains a survey on the AgNPS SALT Program for the districts to complete.

2006-027 - DSP-3 Fencing Policy Clarification and Typographical Error Correction

- Clarifies the Soil and Water Districts Commission's DSP-3 fencing policy concerning boundary and right-of-way fencing, as well as a correction to the Cost-share Handbook.

2006-028 - New Vendor Input Form

- Includes an updated vendor input form which better captures any change of address information.

2006-029 - Existing Terraces in Pastures and Haylands

- Contains information on addressing erosion in conjunction with existing terraces on pastures and haylands.

2006-030 - Parks-and-Soils Sales Tax

- Contains information for districts on the parks-and-soils sales tax.

2006-031 - Cancelled Checks

- Explains the Soil and Water Districts Commission's policy on cancelled checks and cost-share.

2006-032 - Area Meetings

- Gives districts the location, date, and time of the 2006 area meetings.

2006-033 - Request for Quarterly District Cost-Share (DCS) Reports and Reconciliation of District Cost-Share Claims

- Reminds the districts to send their quarterly cost-share information to the program office.

2006-034 - Clarifications to the N590 Nutrient Management Practice and the Organic Nutrient Worksheet and Crop Removal Chart used for AgNPS SALT Nutrient Management Plans, and Updated Vendor Input Forms for the SALT and Regular Cost-Share Handbooks

- Provides districts with information regarding the nutrient management practice.

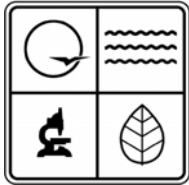
2006-035 - Commission Rule and Policy re: Eligible Land

- Contains a survey for districts to complete and return to the program office regarding land eligible for cost-share.

2006-036 - MoSWIMS Project Timeline Change

- Contains new information regarding the MoSWIMS project.

If you have any questions about a memo listed above, please contact the program office.



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Mark Your Calendar

Area Meetings

May 8: Jackson (Area 8)

May 15: Sedalia (Area 4)

May 9: Rolla (Area 7)

May 16: Shelbina (Area 3)

May 10: Warrenton (Area 5)

May 17: Chillicothe (Area 2)

May 11: Springfield (Area 6)

May 18: Savannah (Area 1)

May

- **May 15 - 17: Introduction to Soils and Soil Survey Training, Elsberry**
- **May 23: Soil and Water Districts Commission Meeting (Tentative)**

June

- **June 7 - 9: Effective Presentation and Instruction Training (Tentative)**
- **June 15: Soil and Water Districts Commission Meeting (Tentative)**